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Letter dated 17 March 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Acting under instructions from my Government, I should like to refer to the report of the panel of experts on violations of Security Council sanctions against UNITA (S/2000/203), which was circulated on 14 March. While recalling the statement made by the United States representative on behalf of the "Troika" during the Security Council open meeting on Angola held on 15 March, I have been asked to make the following points:

The Government of Portugal has always extended full cooperation to the sanctions Committee, providing the required information and enacting all the specific measures determined by the relevant Security Council resolutions, as well as through the enforcement of the related national legislation. This was further demonstrated in October 1999 during the visit to Portugal of Ambassador Anders Möllander, Chairman of the Panel of Experts established by the Security Council pursuant to resolution 1237 (1999), when he was briefed on the extent of the steps taken in this regard.

The Government of Portugal, nevertheless, considers that paragraph 147 of the said report contains references which are both misleading and inaccurate. It is unacceptable that a document of this nature be drafted on the basis of unsubstantiated allegations.

In particular, the Government of Portugal objects to the last sentence of that paragraph, in which Portugal is regarded as "a key country for UNITA in terms of mobilising political support, and also a source of commercial and logistical support". There is absolutely no evidence that Portugal is or has been used as a platform for the violation of the current sanctions against UNITA, and the Government of Portugal believes that an explanation concerning the factual grounds that may have led to such an allegation is warranted.

The Government of Portugal reiterates its full commitment to a transparent and fruitful cooperation with the sanctions Committee in the future.

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I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) António **Monteiro**
Permanent Representative of Portugal
to the United Nations